



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

- 1-A Jackie Hill 865-982-8667 jhill@blounttn.org
1-B Joe McCulley 865-982-6351 jmcculley@blounttn.org
2-A Mike Akard 865-982-6369 makard@blounttn.org
2-B Jim Hammontree 865-898-7506 jhammontree@blounttn.org
3-A Scott King 865-660-8654 sking@blounttn.org
3-B Mike Caylor 865-323-3143 maylor@blounttn.org
4-A Robbie Bennett 865-806-8869 rbennett@blounttn.org
4-B Dawn Reagan 865-724-3162 dreagan@blountk12tn.org
4-C Brian Robbins 865-809-2295 brobbins@blounttn.org
5-A Jared Anderson 865-272-9455 janderson@blounttn.org
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6-A Nick Bright 865-254-0637 nbright@blounttn.org
6-B Dodd Crowe 865-742-6737 dcrowe@blounttn.org
7-A Tom Stinnett 865-310-8606 tstinnett@blounttn.org
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8-B Jeff Jopling 865-719-9480 jjopling@blounttn.org
9-A Ron French 865-577-8393 rfrench@blounttn.org
9-B Steve Mikels 865-755-6958 smikels@blounttn.org
10-A Linda Webb 865-389-0541 lwebb@blounttn.org
10-B Tom Hood 865-643-2891 thood@blounttn.org

Thursday, June 17, 2021

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

<https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 940 2254 8441

PRAYER: Rev. Jonathan Jonas, 1st United Methodist Church Maryville

PLEDGE: Boy Scout Troop 442, Scout Master Bob Laginess

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. Blount County Commission Chairman Ron French called the meeting to order. An electronic roll call was taken by Blount County Clerk Gaye Hasty. There were 18 members present and 3 absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum did exist. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

Present: 18 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Jared Anderson, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Vice Chair Richard Carver, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Dodd Crowe, Chairperson Ron French, Commissioner James Hammontree, Commissioner Jackie Hill, Commissioner Tom Hood, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Lawhorn, Commissioner Joe McCulley, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, and Commissioner Tom Stinnett

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Brian Robbins, and Commissioner Linda Webb

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

The Chairman asked for unanimous consent that item B.2 (Approval of Bonds and Oaths) be amended to include the Public Officials Bonds. There was no objection. The Chairman asked for unanimous consent to remove items E.1 (Resolution No. 21-05-015, A Resolution that Approves Blount County, TN Property Assessor Office Agreement for Business Personal Property and Audit Services with Property Assessment Alliance, LLC), and E.2 (Resolution No. 21-05-014, A Resolution that Approves Blount County, TN Property Assessor Office Agreement for Legal Services with Robert T. Lee, Attorney at Law) from the agenda. Commissioner Akard objected, and requested that the minutes reflect that the Property Assessor has repeatedly ignored the Board of Commissioners' request to appear before them, and is a dereliction of duty.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bright, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that the items E.1 and E.2 be withdrawn. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the agenda be set as amended. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

B. CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that the Consent Calendar be approved as amended. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

1. [Approval of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes 2021-May-20.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes09-Jun-2021-09-09-03](#)

The minutes were approved.

2. [Approval of Bonds and Oaths.](#)

Attachments: [OATHS AND BONDS RESOLUTION 2021-Jun-17](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2021-Jun-17](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2021-Jun-17](#)

[Public Officials Bonds](#)

The Resolution was adopted as amended.

3. [Notaries to be Elected.](#)

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2021-Jun-17](#)

The notaries were elected.

4. [Receiving of Reports \(Information Only\).](#)

Attachments: [Minutes of Beer Board 2021-Feb-9](#)

[Minutes of Budget Committee 2021-May-11 Meeting](#)

[Minutes of BZA 2021-Apr-1](#)

[Minutes of Planning Commission 2021-Apr-22](#)

[Trustee Report May 2021](#)

The reports were received and filed.

5. [May 2021 Financial Reports \(Information Only\).](#)

Attachments: [MAY 2021 Expenses](#)

[MAY 2021 Revenues](#)

[US Bank Report - May 2021](#)

The reports were received and filed.

6. [FY 21-22 Budget Public Notice and Publication \(Information Only\).](#)

Attachments: [Affidavit of Publication Daily Times](#)

The information was received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**D. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.****E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

1. [Resolution No. 21-05-015, A Resolution that Approves Blount County, TN Property Assessor Office Agreement for Business Personal Property and Audit Services with Property Assessment Alliance, LLC.](#)

Attachments: [21-05-015 Resolution for Agmt with Property Assessment Alliance LLC](#)
[Contract - Property Assessment Alliance, LLC](#)
[Letter to Property Assessor for Appearance 2021-May-20](#)
[Letter to Property Assessor for Appearance 2021-Jun-3](#)

This item was withdrawn.

2. [Resolution No. 21-05-014, A Resolution that Approves Blount County, TN Property Assessor Office Agreement for Legal Services with Robert T. Lee, Attorney at Law.](#)

Attachments: [21-05-014 Resolution for Agmt with Attorney Robert T Lee](#)
[Attorney Robert T Lee Retainer Contract](#)
[Letter to Property Assessor for Appearance 2021-May-20](#)
[Letter to Property Assessor for Appearance 2021-Jun-3](#)

This item was withdrawn.

3. [Setting a Zoning Public Hearing for July 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Blount County Commission Meeting Room 430 to Amend the Zoning Map of Blount County, Tennessee from RAC \(Rural Arterial Commercial\) to C \(Commercial\) for Entire Tract of Land \(1.46 Acre Parcel\) Located at 3615 Tuckaleechee Pike, Blount County \(Tax Map 048, Parcel 0139.00\). Forwarded by the Planning Commission to full commission with a favorable recommendation \(10-0\).](#)

Attachments: [rezoning @ Tuckaleechee to CC](#)
[Draft - Resolution 3615 Tuckaleechee Pike](#)
[Staff Memo - Rezoning 3615 Tuckaleechee Pike](#)
[Report of Action BCPC April 22 2021 - Rezoning 3516 tuckaleechee Pk](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Hammontree, that a Zoning Public Hearing be set for July 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [FY 21-22 Tax Rate Resolution.](#)

Attachments: [21-22 Tax Levy Resolution Recommended](#)
[Amend. Tax Levy Revenue Exhibit 6.8.2021](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Lawhorn, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

Did Not Vote: 1 - Hammontree

2. [FY 21-22 Appropriation Resolution.](#)

Attachments: [21-22 Appropriation Resolution Recommended Amend. 6.8.2021](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner McCulley, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner King, that the Resolution be amended as follows: Reduce the Property Assessor line from \$972,858.00 to \$162,143.00, and the Reappraisal line from \$438,318.00 to \$73,053.00; thereby changing the total General Fund line from \$62,746,242.00 to \$61,570,262.00. This allows funding for 2 months of operations in the Property Assessor's Office. Commission can appropriate additional operating funds to the Department at a later date. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Akard, Anderson, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 3 - Bowers, Bright, and McCulley

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the Resolution be amended as follows: Reduce the Education Capital Projects line from \$6,178,000.00 to \$1,906,047.00; thereby changing the Total Budget FY 21-22 line from \$242,356,301.00 to \$236,908,368.00. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bright, Carver, Caylor, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 2 - Bowers, and Crowe

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken that the Resolution be adopted as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

3. [FY 21-22 Capital Outlay Priorities Resolution.](#)

Attachments: [Capital Outlay Prioritization Resolution Recommended](#)
[Capital Outlay Exhibit for Schools](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stinnett, seconded by Commissioner Hammontree, that the Resolution be adopted as presented. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

4. [Resolution No. 21-06-004, Budget Increase - General County Budget \\$360,000.00 \(To appropriate funds to Circuit Court Clerk for indigent billing for the remainder of the fiscal year\). Referred to full commission by the Budget Committee with a favorable recommendation \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 21-06-004 Circuit Court](#)
[21-06-004 Budget Amendment Circuit Court](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Hammontree, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 21-06-005, Budget Increase - Veterans Affairs \\$2,000.00 \(Veterans Department has received a donation and requests to appropriate said donation\). Referred to full commission by the Budget Committee with a favorable recommendation \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 21-06-005 Veterans Donation](#)
[21-06-005 Veteran Donation appropriation](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner McCulley, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 21-06-006, Budget Increase - General County Budget \\$353,000.00 \(To enhance distance learning for students within Blount County Schools and to create a continuous fiber ring for governmental facilities\). Referred to full commission by the Budget Committee with a favorable recommendation \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 21-06-006 MACNET](#)
[21-06-006 Budget Amendment MACnet](#)
[21-06-006 Exhibit A - ENA AED MED Cost Breakdown](#)
[21-06-006 Memo MACnet](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Bright, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

7. [Resolution No. 21-06-007, Budget Increase - County Clerk \\$5,100.00 \(Increase postage appropriation due to an increase volume of US Postage\). Referred to full commission by the Budget Committee with a favorable recommendation \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution 21-06-007 County Clerk Postage](#)
[21-06-007 Budget Amendment County Clerk](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Reagan, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

8. [Resolution No. 21-06-012, A Resolution of the Blount County Board of Commissioners Urging the Tennessee Department of Transportation to Hold Public Hearings for the Pellissippi Parkway Extension.](#)

Attachments: [21-06-012 Resolution to Urge TDOT to Hold Public Meetings for the Pellissippi Parkway Extension Project](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hammontree, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Carver, seconded by Commissioner Reagan, that the Resolution be amended as follows: 1) strike "urging" and insert "encourage" in the title; 2) strike "public hearings" and insert "in-person public informational meeting" in the title; and 3) strike "hearing" in the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED clause, insert "public informational meeting, in conjunction with the virtual public design meeting,". An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, Mikels, Reagan, and Stinnett

No: 1 - Hammontree

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken that the Resolution be adopted as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bowers, Bright, Carver, Caylor, Crowe, French, Hammontree, Hill, Hood, Jopling, King, Lawhorn, McCulley, and Mikels

No: 2 - Reagan, and Stinnett

Absent: 3 - Bennett, Robbins, and Webb

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 8:09 p.m.